

BUILD SKILLS

from Walden • from Civil Disobedience

LITERARY ANALYSIS

Style refers to the manner in which a writer puts his or her thoughts into words. Thoreau constructs paragraphs so that the sentences build to a climax. Thoreau also repeats his main ideas to reinforce his message. As you read, watch for these signposts of Thoreau's style.

Thoreau often uses **metaphors**—figures of speech that compare two unlike things without using the words like or as. As you read, notice the metaphors that Thoreau uses.

READING STRATEGY

As a reader, you are not bound to accept everything you see in print. In fact, when reading essays written about ideas, you should **evaluate the writer's philosophy**. To do this, pay attention to the support the writer provides to back up his or her outlook. As you read Thoreau's works, compare his ideas and supporting details with your own experiences. Use this chart to organize your comparison.

Thoreau's Ideas	Your Experiences	Your Reaction